g) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has been simplified. Earlier all the notification under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Recently, an amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.

h) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MOU has also been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

i) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

New guidelines for the construction and expansion of NHs

535. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new guidelines has been formulated for the construction and expansion of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the financial burden has to be borne by the commuters of these Highways by paying Toll, Cess etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N SINGH): (a) to (b) In accordance with the comprehensive policy on alternative modes of delivery of national highways as already approved by the Government, construction and expansion of projects under NHDP Phase III and onwards is required to be undertaken on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis in Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Toll mode, failing which on BOT (Annuity Payment) mode; and failing which on "Engineering, Procurement and Contract (EPC)" mode.

(c) The user fee is required to be paid by road users for all projects taken up on Build, Operate and Transfer (Toll) basis as also for completed 4 lane highways.

Completion/ implementation of highway project under NHDP

536. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many highway projects under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan for timely completion/ implementation of highway projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been some delay in the implementation of some projects under NHDP due to various constraints. The major constraints in implementation of the projects are due to delay in land acquisition, utility shifting, obtaining clearances for forest / environment and Road over Bridges, poor performance of some contractors and law & order condition in some States.

(c) and (d) In order to expedite the implementation, progress of projects is closely monitored by Project Implementation Unit of National Highways Authority of India assisted by Supervision / Independent Consultants and concerted efforts are being made to expedite land acquisition, shifting of utilities, clearances of Road Over Bridges from Railways, etc. Financial assistance in the form of special advances are being given to the contractors on case to case basis to overcome cash flow problems to expedite completion of projects.

Review/Completion of NHDP projects

537. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's latest review of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) reveal that out of 60 projects for which requests for proposal were issued, only 22 have attracted a bidder and 38 projects have not attracted even a single bidder;

(b) if so, the details of 38 projects which have not attracted even a single bidder. State-wise; and

(c) what efforts Government is making to complete all the NHDP projects, particularly with regard to those which have been reviewed recently, as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) initiated bidding process for 60 projects in 2008 out of which bids have been received in respect of 30 projects.

(b) The list of 30 projects which did not attract even a single bid is at Statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) The Government has taken various measures to complete the projects under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) as per the details enclosed as Statement-II.